NEWS

Winchester delegation supports passage of animal welfare legislation

September 18, 2024 . 1:00 PM — 2 min read

Gov Maura Healey has signed a bill into law that would bans the use of animals in traveling acts, such as circuses

The following was submitted by the office of Sen. Jason Lewis:

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State Sens. Jason Lewis and Pat Jehlen and state Reps. Michael Day and Michelle Ciccolo joined their colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature to pass an animal welfare bill that bans the use of elephants, big cats, bears, primates, and giraffes in traveling acts, such as circuses.

Massachusetts is the sixth state in the nation to enact similar legislation.

“As a life-long animal welfare advocate, I’m very pleased that Massachusetts has taken action to protect these incredible animals from mistreatment in traveling circuses,” said Lewis. “If people wish to see these animals outside of their natural habitats, they should visit accredited zoos, like the Stone Zoo in Stoneham, where the animals are well cared for by professional veterinarians and other staff.”

“I’ve always believed animals deserve fair treatment and protections,” said Jehlen. “Animals in zoos are better cared for than their counter-parts in traveling exhibitions who have historically been mistreated and exploited. I’m so happy that Massachusetts has taken this step to expand our protections.”

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“This law will help to prevent the abuse and neglect of animals of all kinds,” said Day. “I am happy that we continue to progress as a society with this legislation.”

“I am pleased that this long overdue change has been made to protect and safeguard animals, staff, and audience members,” said Ciccolo. “Circuses are not the place to interact with large, wild animals and I thank [illegible] impassioned advocates and my colleagues who enabled this to ha[illegible]

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Circuses and other traveling shows are known for fostering dangerous conditions for large animals. Fortunately, many major establishments, such as the Topsfield Fair, have already stopped displaying these animals in recent years.

This legislation will prohibit traveling acts, such as circuses, carnivals, and fairs, from using certain large animals, including lions, tigers, leopards, bears, elephants, giraffes, and primates for entertainment starting in January 2025.

Animals that live at the zoo; animals used for filming movies; and non-exotic animals such as horses, chickens, pigs, and rabbits will be exempt from this new law.

After passing in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, this legislation was signed into law by Gov. Maura Healey on Aug. 9, 2024.

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Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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